Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended):   A method of controlling communication of content information from a sender to a receiver via a data network, the method comprising:

verifying with a plurality of sources throughout the data network whether the content

      information is available from at least one of the sources other than the sender, said

      verification including the steps of identifying the content information, analyzing the

      same and checking an index of said plurality of sources as to whether the content

      information is available therefrom;

contacting a search engine if the content information is available from the at least one source,

      wherein the search engine determines a location within the data network of the at least

      one source of the content information and returns an updateable index listing each of

      the sources of a copy of the content information; and

substituting for the content information a pointer to the location of the at least one source

      based on the updateable index of sources returned by the search engine, wherein said

      pointer is a URL of the said at least one source, which URL can be used to access and

      retrieve said content information.

Claim 2 (Original):   The method of claim 1, being carried out on request of at least the sender or the receiver.

Claim 3 (Original):   The method of claim 1, wherein the verifying comprises identifying the content based on a watermark embedded in the content.

Claim 4 (Original):   The method of claim 1, wherein the verifying comprises identifying the content based on a fingerprint of the content.

Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication is conditionally being carried

out depending on the sender being authorized to communicate the content information.

Claim 6 (Original):   The method of claim 1, wherein the communication is conditionally being carried out depending on the receiver being authorized to receive the content information.

Claim 7 (Currently amended):   A computer readable medium storing a computer program comprising:

computer readable code for cooperation with an email application,

the computer readable code verifying with a plurality of sources throughout a world wide web

whether an attachment to a specific email to be sent by a user via the world wide web

is available from at least one of the sources on the world wide web, said verification

including the steps of identifying the attachment, analyzing the same and checking an

index of said plurality of sources as to whether the attachment is available therefrom,

contacting a search engine if the attachment is available from the at least one source,

wherein the search engine determines a location within the world wide web data network of

the at least one source of the attachment and returns an updateable index listing each of

the sources of a copy of the attachment, and

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substituting for the attachment a pointer to the location of the at least one source based on the

updateable index of sources returned by the search engine;

wherein said pointer is a URL of the said at least one source which URL can be used to access

and retrieve said attachment.

Claim 8 (Currently amended):   A computer readable medium storing a computer

program comprising:

computer readable code for cooperation with an Instant Messaging application,

the computer readable code verifying with a plurality of sources throughout a data network

whether a file to be sent by a user via the data network is available from at least one of

the sources on the data network independent of the user, said verification including the

steps of identifying the file, analyzing the same and checking an index of said plurality

of sources as to whether the file is available therefrom,

contacting a search engine if the file is available from the at least one source,

wherein the search engine determines a location within the data network of the at least one

source of the file and returns an updateable index listing each of the sources of a copy

of the file, and

substituting for the file a pointer to the location of the at least one source based on the

updateable index of sources returned by the search engine;

wherein said pointer is a URL of the said at least one source which can be used to access and

retrieve said file.

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Claim 9 (Previously presented):   The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the updateable index of the search engine with information about the location of the at least one source of the content information.

Claim 10 (Previously presented):   The computer readable medium of claim 7, wherein the updateable index of the search engine is updated with information about the location of the at least one source of the attachment.

Claim 11 (Previously presented):   The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the updateable index of the search engine is updated with information about the location of the at least one source of the file.